

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

# BILL OF INFORMATION FOR FALSE STATEMENT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**CRIMINAL NO:** 

V.

SECT. K MAG. 5

DONALD HUDSON

**VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 1001** 

The United States Attorney charges that:

### COUNT 1

#### A. AT ALL TIMES MATERIAL HEREIN:

- From on or about October 14, 2009 until on or about May 27, 2010, the 1. defendant, **DONALD HUDSON**, was employed by Helmerich & Payne, Inc. ("H&P") as the drilling rig manager on Rig 206 located on a federal mineral lease in the Gulf of Mexico in the territorial jurisdiction of Louisiana.
- 2. Rig 206 was equipped with a safety device known as a blowout preventer system designed to ensure well control and prevent potential release of oil and gas and possible loss of well control. According to the Code of Federal Regulations, the blowout preventer system must be pressure tested at regular intervals, and the entire system must pass the pressure test prior to

continuing drilling operations. The blowout preventer system consisted of multiple components including a blowout preventer, choke and kill lines, and a choke manifold. The choke manifold was an arrangement of piping and valves designed to direct and control flow from the well during pressure spikes. According to the Code of Federal Regulations, the results of the pressure testing, including any problems or irregularities observed during the testing and the actions taken to remedy the problems, must be recorded.

## B. <u>FALSE STATEMENT</u>

On or about March 30, 2011, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Interior—Office of Inspector General, a department and agency of the United States, the defendant, **DONALD HUDSON**, did knowingly and intentionally make and cause to be made material statements and representations that were false, fictitious, and fraudulent, in that the defendant, **DONALD HUDSON**, told an agent of the United States Department of Interior—Office of Inspector General that he did not direct others on Rig 206 to falsify blowout preventer testing and recording when he knew in truth and in fact that he had directed personnel on Rig 206 to falsify the testing and recording of the blowout preventer system by directing his crew to close valves on the choke manifold in order to by-pass leaking

valves; all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001.

United States Attorney

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First Assistant U.S. Attorney

Chief, Criminal Division

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New Orleans, Louisiana February 2012

CLERK'S OFFICE A TRUE GOPY

Deputy Clerk, U.S. District Court Eastern District of Louisiana

New Orleans, LA